



Pomona Economic Opportunity Center

Providing employment, services and education to low-wage, immigrant workers in Pomona and the Inland Empire



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Friday, March 23, 2018

Senator Mike McGuire

Committee Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee

1303 10th Street, Room 5061

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 946 "Safe Sidewalk Vending Act" (Lara)

Dear Senator McGuire,

I am writing to express our organization's full support for the aforementioned "Safe Sidewalk Vending Act" (SB 946). We understand that this bill will be heard by the Senate's Governance and Finance Committee in the upcoming days, and we urge you to pass the bill out of committee and recommend that it be passed by the plenary body.

In our community, there are many people, many of whom are immigrants and refugees, who earn their livelihood or supplement their income through street vending. They are hardworking, honorable people, who seek to support their families through their labor. When they are criminalized, or when they are denied the opportunity to earn their livelihood in a lawful way, they suffer financially, and potentially face immigration consequences for what tends to be minor infractions of the municipal code.

Marcelina Ríos, whose case we have been working on since October 2013, is one such individual, who was arrested for unlicensed vending in the city of Rancho Cucamonga, where we organize day laborers and work with low-income and immigrant workers. She is currently detained in the Adelanto Detention Center and has been physically separated from her family for five months now.

Nobody should have to deal with what Marcelina is going through now, and we are hopeful that Senator Lara's bill will help avoid anyone else falling into the same situation.

Again, we urge you to vote "Yes" on SB946, the "Safe Sidewalk Vending Act."

Thank You Kindly for Your Consideration,

Fernando Romero

Executive Director, Pomona Economic Opportunity Center